

MINUTES**North Dakota High School Activities Association
July 16, 2020, Valley City, ND**

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota High School Activities Association began their meeting on July 16, 2020 via conference call. President Jordan called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Welcomed new members to the Board.

Members present: Jordan, Baesler, Bertsch, Rerick, Diegel, Fridley, Jundt, Brandt, Johnson, Baxley, Schoch

Others present: Patti Aanenson - Larimore, David Mieure - Williston, Chad Friese - Harvey, Eric Peterson, Carissa Wigginton, Dave Zittleman – Bismarck, Paul Wraalstad - Fargo

Motion by Baxley to approve the agenda. Second by Rerick. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bertsch to approve the consent agenda. Second by Jundt. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes
 - i. June 24, 2020
 - b. Financial Reports
 - i. Balance Sheet
 1. June 2020
 - ii. Budget
 1. June 2020
 - iii. Savings/Investments
 1. June 2020

Fetsch presented information on the Return to Competition Committee. The committee met twice since the last Board meeting to address the Return to Education and K-12 restart. The committee said they would like direction from the NDHSAA Board on some of the recommendations. An outline was put together on return to competition and shared with the Board. Brandt indicated his support of the Return to Competition Guidelines. Jordan indicated the mental health aspect of students not being involved in sports and activities needs to be a consideration. Jundt stated a significant portion of our state has not been severely impacted by COVID-19 and would feel comfortable returning to competition. Diegel agreed with the guidelines as they address risks and how to handle these risks. It still comes down to parental decision and local school district to decide the level of risk they are comfortable with. Rerick indicated we will need to set parameters to allow schools to make choices at a local level regarding what competitions will be held. Fridley observed things will look different for schools, sports and activities this year, but as per the governor schools have local control. Johnson, as a new Board member indicated he will do more listening than talking. He observed Governor Burgum & Superintendent Baesler are allowing decisions to be made at a local level and would favor NDHSAA align to local control. Schoch questioned if flipping spring and fall sports was discussed by the committee as spring sports are usually held outside. Fetsch indicated this was discussed at length by the Return to Competition Committee. The committee observed a large outbreak in the fall may lead to the same sports being canceled in the fall as were in the spring. The NFHS Medical Advisory voiced concerns having two football seasons held so close together as football would be played in spring then again in the fall. Rerick would like to add awards ceremonies to return to competition recommendations. Fetsch indicated the Return to Competition Committee could meet again next week to address the shared outline and guidelines with recommendations for Board approval by the end of next week. Motion by Rerick to host all fall sports as per the NDHSAA approved calendar. Second by Brandt. Motion carried unanimously.

Alexis Baxley, Fine Arts Committee Chair, provided a committee report. The committee recommends prioritizing opportunity over awards. Recommend one medal per star rating. Additional medals may be purchased by individual schools. This would reduce the fine arts awards by approximately \$5,000. Recommend moving the awards recommendation forward to the Awards Committee. Recommend moving forward with the current slate of events with consideration to making changes and to have contingency plans in place for events for the 2020-21 school year. Motion by Jundt to approve the Fine Arts Committee report. Second by Rerick. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul Jundt, Officials Committee Chair, provided a report. The committee reviewed the NFHS guidelines for return to competition for each sport. These are guidelines and recommendations, not rules. Some of the items in the NFHS guidelines were removed to better suit NDHSAA member schools. Jundt requested NDHSAA staff report on the changes

recommended for each sport. Morast, Fletschock and Schell discussed the accommodations recommended for the sports in their portfolios.

Jundt also requested the Return to Competition Committee provide direction to schools on contracts for officials so schools are not liable for payment if contests are canceled. Fetsch indicated this will be included in the return to competition recommendations. The Officials Committee also recommended swimming & diving consider smaller meets to allow for social distancing. The committee recommends the first reading of recommendations for accommodations for fall sports as presented. Motion by Schoch to approve the Officials Committee report. Second by Fridley. Motion carried unanimously.

Awards were discussed with a recommendation for a reduction in region and state awards providing an annual savings of \$32,000. If local schools would like to purchase additional awards they would work directly with the awards company. Motion by Brandt to approve awards as presented. Second by Jundt. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Correspondence

- Richard Bubach Letter
- Sarah Lien Email

Representative Reports

- Rerick questioned if anyone had more information on a new esports provider, EGF. No Board members were aware of additional information on the company EGF.
- Brandt was contacted by superintendents in his area about swapping spring and fall sports.
- Jordan appreciates the work the Board, committees and staff are doing in these unprecedented times. All the hard work is appreciated.
- Baesler questioned if a school district chooses 100% distance learning if they would be allowed to provide co-curricular sports. Jordan recommended the Return to Competition Committee address this. Rerick indicated he would like to leave this to local control and their local health department.

Next meeting will be held July 24, 2020 at 9:00 am via conference call.

Meeting was adjourned July 16, 2020 at 10:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
Assistant Director

Signed: _____ Approved Date: ____/____/____